

May 22, 2009

Dear Councilman Dijou

I write to you as a born-and-raised-in-Honolulu resident and a member of the Honolulu Board of Realtors. I understand the challenges and needs of Honolulu and its budget and I find you to be a sincere and honorable Councilman which compels me to write to you.

I write to express that I oppose Bill 25. I would support any amendment to the operating budget of Bill 15, that will offset the income from the parking meter hike.

The proposed parking meter hike from \$.25/hour to \$1.50/hour, will bring hardship to those who live and work in the neighborhood of Kapiolani Park, along with those who enjoy the park for family, recreation and cultural events. Many of the residents in this neighborhood are retired and have fixed incomes, but have to pay meters everyday for their car as many of the buildings do not have enough parking. Many of the employees of the residential buildings, the Elks club, the Outrigger Canoe Club, Michels restaurant, The Lotus Hotel, Kaimana Beach Hotel, Diamond Head Beach Hotel, retail shops and park event vendors will not be able to afford parking when they come to work everyday. Many families who enjoy the park for family gatherings, birthday parties will be hurt by this drastic hike. Many who frequent the park for recreation, soccer games, marathon training, mothers taking their infant strollers on a walk in the morning, seniors walking and doing yoga in the morning, runners, surfers, canoe paddlers and those who come to Kaimana Beach, which is known as a "locals beach" will find the meter hike difficult to fit in their budget. The hike turns a family day at the park or the beach to be a costly and unfriendly experience. Enjoying the park and the beach is one of the best reasons for living in Hawaii, but if the average citizen will soon find this to be too costly, we will drive away our residents and even our valuable tourist economy.

Not only will it hurt property values, which may decline, thus hurting revenue from property taxes in this neighborhood, but the parking meter hike will hurt the neighborhood residents, the residents of Honolulu who have grown up with family functions at the park, and the individuals who work in this neighborhood. Please consider these things when voting and deciding on Bill 25 which will have grave repercussions if passed.

Sincerely

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